

Claims:

1. In a computing system consisting of a processor, memory storage, input and output devices, a network interface adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting, said system being connected to a remote email server, characterized in that said BIOS includes:

- a means to communicate with the network adapter,
- a means to access the said remote email server through network during the boot up process using said network adapter,
- a means to download the email count for the current user from the remote email server on said network, and
- a means to display the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising configuration means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous system operation.

4. In a computing system including a network adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) connected to a remote email server through a network, a method for accessing email count during the boot up process comprising:

- communicating with the network adapter,
- accessing the network during the boot up using said network adapter,

- downloading the email count for the user from the remote email server on said network, and
- displaying the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.

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5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising configuring the designated users of the system during a previous operation.

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7. A computer program product comprising computer readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing a computer to access email count during the boot up process, said computer program code comprising:

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- computer readable program code means configured for communicating with the network adapter,
- computer readable program code means configured for accessing said remote email server through network during the boot up process using said network adapter,
- computer readable program code means configured for downloading the email count for the current user from the remote email server on said network, and
- computer readable program code means configured for displaying the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.

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8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 7 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for communicating with the network adapter through the TCP/IP protocol.
- 5 9. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1 further comprising computer readable program code means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous system operation.

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